

**Town of Royalston  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
Tuesday, April 18, 2006  
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Andrew West, Chairman; Thomas Kellner and Linda Alger, Members.

1. Chairman West called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 4/4/06 meeting were read. Two corrections were made and noted. Mr. Kellner made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Ms. Alger seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
3. Dog Hearing: Mr. West stated that the Board is in receipt of complaints from neighbors of the Deegan family of South Royalston Road regarding animals roaming around. Millie Poor explained an incident that occurred recently when two German shepherds attacked her dog. Mr. West read a letter from Sandra Richard, another neighbor of the Deegan family, relating to the loose dogs and also about some goats. Mr. Deegan stated that they currently own three German shepherds, and that they are housedogs. They no longer have the goats. The incident that occurred with Mrs. Poor's dog was during a time when the Deegans were away and their son was in charge of the dogs. Mrs. Poor said that after the attack on her dog, the Deegans were very concerned and have since paid all of the medical bills. Mr. Deegan apologized publicly to the Mr. & Mrs. Poor. Robin Mowrey, Animal Control Officer, stated that he has spoken to the Deegans approximately three times about the dogs and once about the goats. Mr. West asked what action the Deegans have taken since the incident. Mr. Deegan replied that the dogs are now on steel runs when they are outside. Mr. Kellner put the Deegans on notice and stated that another complaint would require further action by the Board. The next violation could result in a fine. The Board will send a letter to the Deegans outlining what was discussed at this hearing. Mr. West suggested that Mr. Mowrey keep a logbook of all calls. The dog hearing was then closed.
4. Announcements/Acknowledgements/Correspondence:
  - a) Mr. West will send a letter on behalf of the Board and the town to Mr. Bundschuh for his years of service.
  - b) Zoning Bylaw Meeting – At the last meeting, Paul Bobrowski reviewed the summary of the weak spots of the bylaw and spoke about things to be looked at to make it stronger legally. The next meeting will be held next Wednesday, 4/26/06 at 5:30.
  - c) Mr. Kellner made a motion to give formal approval for the town website and to support its development. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - d) The pending grievance hearing was rescheduled to 5/16/06.
5. Old Business:
  - a) Public Hearing for 650 Ft Extension of Toney Road – 8:00 p.m.: This public hearing was held to allow discussion of the possible extension of Toney Road, as previously requested by Scott and Nancy Monette. Keith Newton reported that a marginal amount of work would have to be done to extend the road, such as drainage and creating an adequate turnaround. A lengthy discussion was held. A major point of discussion was if this action would create a precedent for the opening up of other roads that are currently discontinued. Mr. Kellner felt that issues should be addressed on a case-by-case basis. The Board decided to put an article on the annual town meeting warrant for the extension of the road. The hearing ended at 8:48 p.m.

- b) Friends of Tully Lake: Aaron Ellison spoke about the proposed development, Grandview Acres, on Chestnut Hill Road. He explained that Royalston has the right to give input because it abuts the town of Athol. He has spoken with Senator Brewer and Representative Rice, who suggested that town boards send letters to the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency to request that the project be reviewed under their guidelines. Mr. Kellner made a motion to send a letter to MEPA to request an evaluation. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. Kellner will write the letter.

6. Department Head Reports:

a) DPW –

- 1) Keith Newton reported that the remainder of Chapter 90 Funds have been received.
- 2) The target date for sweeping and related clean up is Memorial Day.
- 3) Mr. Newton is working on cleaning up the debris left on School Street.
- 4) Route 32 Project: David Blie of Mass. Highway has requested a meeting with Mr. Newton, Vyto Andreliunas and a representative from Guertin Associates to establish what the minimum requirements are so the state may get a handle on what needs to be done.

b) Building Department –

- 1) Geoff Newton reported that he contacted four contractors to get estimates for the demolition and clean up of 1 School Street. Two of the contractors met with him at the site. He received one proposal in the amount of \$53,000. There is asbestos in the basement that would have to be removed that is not part of the proposal. Mr. Kellner volunteered to contact Shelley Hatch of MRPC to inquire about options for reimbursement through grant funding for this demolition. In the meantime, an article will be placed on the annual town meeting warrant.

7. New Business:

- a) Bulk Mailing Permit: Mr. West reported that the Board now has a postage meter. Helen Divoll will send out a letter to department heads to make them aware of this. He would like to get a credit card for the office so that the meter can be refilled, to order supplies, etc. Ms. Alger suggested that each department estimate what they are spending for postage and that it be made part of a postage account.

- 8. Review of ATM Warrant Articles and Closing of Warrant: Mr. Kellner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Alger, to put articles on the warrant relating to the third lease payment for the 1-ton dump truck (\$10,658), the Athol/Royalston School District special apportionment (\$127,500), the second lease payment for the 10-wheel dump truck (\$31,116), Chapter 90 reimbursements (\$500,000), and the transfer of money from Police and Fire Departments to the Highway General Account. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. Kellner made a motion to put articles 1-7, 30-32, 43 & 44 as written in the ATM warrant from 2005, with wording and money amounts as amended for 2006. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor. Working from a list of proposed articles prepared by Mr. West, which is attached, Mr. Kellner made motions to put the following numbered articles on the warrant: 1 & 2, 4-6, 8, 12, 15-17, 19, 23, and 32. Ms. Alger seconded these motions, and the Board voted unanimously in favor. Ms. Alger made motions to put the following numbered articles on the warrant: 11, 14, 18 (adding building inspector's amount from article 9 to total), 22, 24-26, and 30. Mr. Kellner seconded these motions. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. Kellner made a motion to put number 28 on the

warrant, and Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner and Ms. Alger, yes; and Mr. West, no. Mr. Alger made a motion to put number 29 on the warrant, and Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. West and Ms. Alger, yes; Mr. Kellner, no. Mr. West made a motion to put number 31 on the warrant, and Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor. Mr. Kellner made a motion to close the warrant for the annual town meeting. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

9. The Treasury Warrant was signed.
10. At 11:50 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to go into Executive Session as noted in MGL Chap. 39, Section 23B, #3, to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner, yes; Ms. Alger, yes; and Mr. West, yes. The regular meeting will reconvene for adjournment only.
11. At 12:24 a.m., Ms. Alger made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.

